

City of Birmingham
Temporary Suspension of Construction Permitting Activities Around World Game Venues

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the temporary suspension of permitting activities?

The temporary suspension of construction and construction permitting activities around the City of Birmingham World Games venues is necessary for the efficient traffic flow of traffic and the safety and security of the venues, infrastructure, citizens, and visitors.

The Department of Homeland Security has ranked the World Games (TWG) with a Special Events Assessment Rating (SEAR) of Level 1, the highest possible rating. The event has national and international importance that requires extensive federal interagency support. TWG will be an 11- day international, multi-sport event, expected to bring in anywhere from 250,000 to 500,000 people, and athletes from over 100 countries to the City. Security around the perimeter of event spaces and security screenings at the venues will be similar to what one would see at a national championship or Super Bowl game, except those measures will be in place for the duration of this multi-game event rather than a single event occurring on one day. Due to the international significance, projected high attendance, limited availability of resources to address emergencies and hazards which can arise in relation to an event of this magnitude, law enforcement needs to prepare accordingly and secure all of the venues and surrounding areas to ensure the safety of staff, competitors, attendees, local residents, national and international dignitaries and the general public.

What World Game Venue Locations will be affected?

Protective Stadium
Central Downtown
UAB
Avondale Park
Birmingham Crossplex
Sloss Furnaces
Legion Field
Birmingham Southern College

Copies of the restricted area maps will be made available on the City's website at www.birminghamal.gov/bhamready and in the City Clerk's Office, the Department of Planning, Engineering and Permits (PEP), and the City's Department of Transportation (BDOT).

How long will the suspension last?

Permitting and construction activities shall be suspended in tiers within the designated restricted areas around each of the eight (8) World Games venues starting June 21st (for Tier I Permits) and starting July 1st (for Tier II Permits). Inspections for Tier I and Tier II Permits may continue up to June 30, 2022. Regular permitting and inspection activities for the designated restricted areas shall resume on July 18, 2022. Please note that for Central Downtown, only Tier I permits are restricted. All other permit activities may occur in the Central Downtown area.

What types of permit activities will be suspended?

In general, all residential and commercial construction related activity will be temporarily suspended within the designated restricted areas. This includes the construction, alteration, enlargement, repair, and demolition of all structures; including the excavation, grading, filling or clearing of land; as well as utility related permits and other various permits. More specifically, each permit by tier is provided below:

Tier I Permits:

- Barricade (Temporary Traffic Control) Permit
- Blasting Permit
- Civil Construction Permit
- Clearing and Earthwork Permit/Soil Erosion Control Permit
- Demolition Permit
- Driveway / Curb Cut Permit
- Street Excavation (Private Contractor)
- Street Excavation (Utility)
- Subsurface Vault
- Urban Agriculture Permit
- Fence/Wall Approval Permit
- House Move Permit Application

Tier II Permits:

- Building Permit
- All After Hours Inspections
- Electrical Permit
- Elevator Permit
- Garage Sale Permit
- Gas Permit
- Mechanical Permit
- Motor Fuel Dispenser Permit
- Personnel Hoist Permit
- Plumbing Permit
- Sign Permit
- Small Cell Sites Permit
- Special Use Permit
- Condemnation Repair Permit

Can I still submit my permit application or site plans for review during the suspension?

Yes. Permit applications including site plans shall be accepted and reviewed during this period for all areas of the City. Access to Birmingham City Hall will be restricted so an alternate site for applications will be provided where applications can be received and processed.

May I continue the work within the designated restricted area if I already have an existing permit?

No. Permittees already holding permits authorizing work to occur in the designated restricted areas during this period shall suspend construction, with the exception of any person:

- (1) with an existing permit authorizing work during this period that cannot be halted due to significant damage to the project, or
- (2) experiencing an emergency necessitating construction repair during this period.

If one of the above exceptions apply, the existing permit holder or permit applicant may request a review by writing to the Director of the Department of Planning, Engineering, and Permits and describing the permitted work or emergency and the reasons that the work must be done during this period. The PEP Director or her designee shall route the request for review to the appropriate PEP, BDOT and Birmingham Police Department staff. If the request can be accommodated without compromising security and traffic flow, it will be granted, subject to security credentialing for workers and others requiring access to the project site. If the work will interfere with traffic flow during events or create a security risk, the request shall not be granted; however, the City will attempt to work with the permittee to the extent feasible to identify possible alternatives. Emergency repairs will be accommodated but will require security credentialing for workers and others requiring access to the project site.

Are there any exemptions or exclusions?

Yes. Only Tier I Permits will be restricted for the Central Downtown zone. In addition, emergency repairs and existing permit holders with work that cannot be halted due to significant damages to the project may be considered for accommodation on a case by case basis but will require security credentialing for workers and others requiring access to the project site.

With the suspension in place, what does that mean for my current permit application?

Any completed permit application received before the effective date of the suspension will continue to be reviewed and may be issued permits. Work is not to occur within designated restricted area unless approved through the identified appeal process. New permits within this designated area will be issued beginning July 18th. Work outside of the designated areas may continue as normal.

Can I still seek project guidance or schedule pre-permit meetings with a Plans Examiner?

Yes, meetings to discuss potential projects may still occur and are strongly encouraged to minimize conflicts after the permit application and plans have been received. These meetings are not considered to be applications for development.

There is a lot of construction taking place in central downtown, are all permits being halted in this area?

No. Only Tier I permits are restricted in the central downtown area within the designated perimeter. All other permitting and inspection activity within this zone may continue.

What should I do if an emergency repair is needed at my home or business and I am located within the restricted area; will the City grant me a permit to perform this work?

Emergency repairs will be accommodated but will require security credentialing for workers and others requiring access to the project site. Request for consideration of emergency repair must be submitted to the Director of the Department of Planning, Engineering, and Permits or her designee describing the permitted work or emergency and the reasons that the work must be done during this period.

My existing construction project is too critical to halt, can I be provided an exception to continue work?

An exception may be granted if halting the construction project will cause significant damage or if an emergency necessitating a construction repair is needed. In order to request such exception, please submit a request for a review of your project by writing to the Director of the Department of Planning, Engineering, and Permits and describing the permitted work or emergency and the reasons that the work must be done during this period. The PEP Director or her designee shall route the request for review to the appropriate PEP, BDOT and Birmingham Police Department staff. If the request can be accommodated without compromising security and traffic flow, it will be granted, subject to security credentialing for workers and others requiring access to the project site. If the work will interfere with traffic flow during events or create a security risk, the request shall not be granted; however, the City will attempt to work with the permittee to the extent feasible to identify possible alternatives.

I have an existing permit for a renovation project and need electrical, and plumbing/mechanical permits in order to complete the work. Will I be able to receive these permits during the suspension period?

No, unfortunately, no new permits will be issued during the suspension period within the designated restricted area. Only certain exceptions will apply.

Can I continue work outside of the designated restricted area?

Yes, all permit activities and inspections will continue as normal citywide with the exception of the temporary suspension within the designated restricted area. If City Hall is closed during the World Games event, a remote permit office will be identified for all normal permitting activities.

Is there a phone number I can call if I have additional questions about my existing project?

Yes, please call 205-254-2252 or 205-254-2904 to speak to a Plans Examiner.